



FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's #
39-23

USGS Quad
Hanover

Area

Form #

8

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town **Hanson**

Place **Bryantville**

Address **214 Main Street**

Historic Name **First Baptist Church**

Use: Present **church**

Original **church**

Date **1820**

Source **Hurd, History of Plymouth County**

Style/Form **Greek Revival/towered nave**

Architect **N/A**

Exterior Material:

Foundation **granite**

Wall/Trim **aluminum siding**

Roof **asphalt**

Outbuildings **none**

Major Alterations **residing**

Condition **good**

Photo roll/frame **3/13**

Sketch Map

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

The First Baptist Church is a good example of an early nineteenth century rural church such as are distributed throughout the New England landscape. Common characteristics include a pair of entries on the gable end under a small, steepled tower with a small amount of classically derived detailing. Now clad with aluminum siding, the three-bay wide by three-bay deep gabled nave retains a modicum of classically derived detailing in the Greek Revival style. This includes a closed pediment on the gable end, and wide corner boards (now aluminum), and a wide Doric entablature above each entry supported by Doric pilasters. The single window centered between the entries and those on the side elevations are full-height, providing sufficient illumination for both the floor and gallery seating areas on the interior. The gable end entries presumably lead to a vestibule with paired doors opening onto the side aisles.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE see continuation sheet

The First Baptist Church was constructed in 1820 just as Hanson separated from Pembroke. At the time of the building's construction only a handful of residences were scattered along Main Street between the eastern town line and present day Indian Head Street. Historical maps show that this continued to be the case until the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. This building was the church's second structure. In 1814 the Baptists built their first structure, a small meetinghouse opposite the Methodist Church in Bryantville. That structure was remodeled into a house when the present structure was completed on Main Street. Sources indicate the 1820 structure originally resembled a characteristic New England meetinghouse, without a tower and steeple. On the interior there were galleries on three sides and a high pulpit. The tower, steeple and bell were added around 1850 under the leadership of Brother Asa Bronson. Over the years the church has expanded its facilities as the congregation grew. The parsonage on Pleasant Street was acquired in the late 1860s (see Form no. 17). The chapel and vestry were added in 1875 on the north end, a pipe organ was acquired in 1890 and used until the early 1950s, the baptistry was added under the pulpit in 1903 and the original pews were replaced in 1911. A year later the vestry was enlarged and the kitchen and woodshed were built. A storm in 1951 destroyed the mid-nineteenth century steeple which was immediately replaced. In the early 1960s the Fellowship Hall and Sunday School were added at the basement level.

REFERENCES

Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830
Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET
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Community
Hanson
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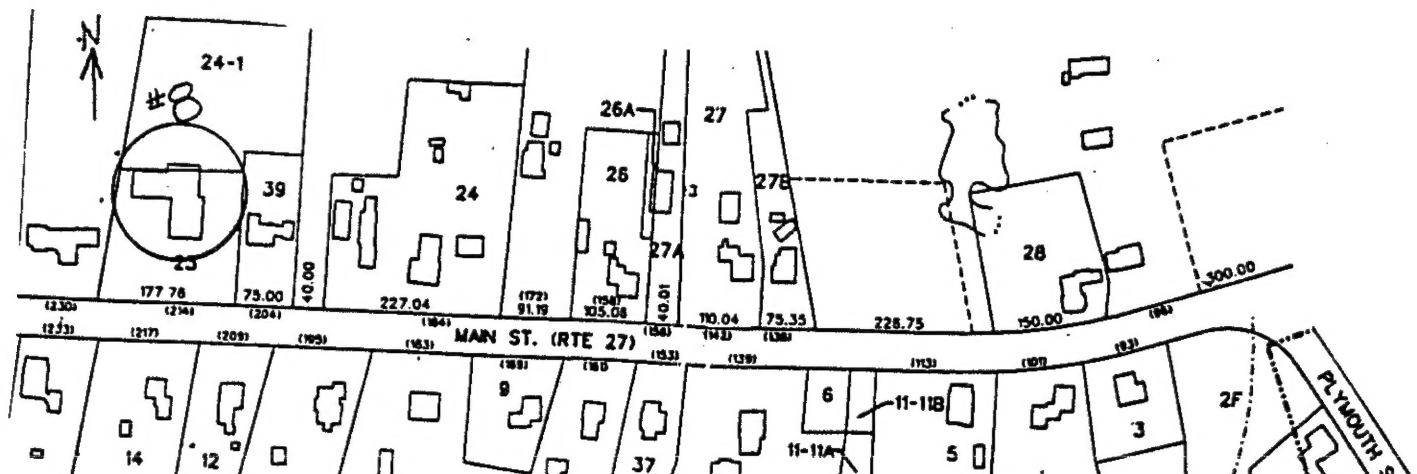
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Architectural Description, continued.

Two additions provide space for the church's ministerial and social activities. The vestry, which was added in 1875, is a one-story, four-bay, gabled rear ell. A one-story, four-bay gabled addition extends from the left-side elevation of the rear ell. This addition, which dates to after 1950, has a full-height basement story. The church is set back from the street, with a semi-circular asphalt drive circling a sizable grass-covered area in front of the church. The paved area also runs along the right side of the church, leading to a fenced in playground at the rear of the church. Large hedges screen the foundation around the entries.

Historical Narrative, continued.

The Baptists first began to organize themselves in the summer of 1811 when Elder Thomas Conant oversaw meetings held in various peoples' homes in the Bryantville section of Pembroke, half way between the East and West Parishes. In early May 1812, 11 persons made a public profession of their faith in baptism and by the end of the month the group had been constituted as the First Baptist Church of Pembroke. By the end of the summer the group had united with the Warren Baptist Association, with which they remained until 1887. At that time they became a part of the Old Colony Association.



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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible. ☐ Eligible only in a historic district.
☐ Contributing to a potential district. ☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer.**

The First Baptist Church at 214 Main Street a good example of a towered nave church in the Greek Revival style such as are scattered throughout the New England landscape. Common massing characteristics of this early nineteenth century church form include a pair of entries on the gable end under a small, steepled tower with a small amount of classically derived detailing. This church, which dates to 1820, was the second building constructed by this congregation which organized in 1811. The church is located in the East Main Street Area, Bryantville, a residential area with a diverse cross-section of common nineteenth century house forms and styles. The First Baptist Church meets criteria A and C at the local level. It retains integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, feeling and association.